

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-14, 16-20, 22-30 and 32-34 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 8, 16-17, 22-23, 32, and 34 are amended; Claims 15, 21 and 31 are canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 8, 14-15, 21, 31 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,084 to Numata; and Claims 2-7, 9-13, 16-20, 22-26 and 32-33 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that the above-noted claims include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the claims are amended to include the allowable features. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Numata is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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